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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 14, 18, 24 and 28 have been amended, and claims 5, 19 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-28 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 2, 14, 24 and 28 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. No new matters has been added by these Amendments. In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-14, 16 and 18-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 2, 14, 24, and 28 have been amended to clarify that the transparent electrode is the front electrode.

Claims 1, 14, 24 and 28 have been amended to insert the word "a."

Claim 2 has been amended to delete the duplicative "wherein."

Claim 7 has been amended to delete the word "discontinuity" and insert the word "separate."

With respect to claim 22, the specification has been amended to provide a definition of the term "cranked." Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly not teaching one of ordinary skill in the art connect both the front and the back electrodes to the same auxiliary electrode outside the display area. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submit that the claims 4, 18 and 21 do not require both the front and the back electrodes to be connected to the same auxiliary electrode outside the display area. Rather, these claims clarify that the metal auxiliary electrode is connected to the back electrode. For example, claim 4 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 recites “a metal auxiliary electrode to be a leading wiring on one of said transparent electrode and said back electrode outside said display area.” Thus, claim 1 recites a connection to one or the other, while claim 4 recites a connection to the back electrode. Therefore, claims 4, and claims 18 and 21, are enabled.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 20, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts that there is no disclosure of a discontinuity that would be adjacent to the metal electrode. Applicants submit that at least Figs. 5-12 and their accompanying descriptions disclose a discontinuity adjacent the metal electrode. For example, with respect to Fig. 6, transparent electrode 62 is formed between metal auxiliary electrodes 61 and 61'. Thus, the discontinuity is adjacent to both metal auxiliary electrodes 61 and 61'. Should this rejection be maintained, Applicants respectfully request that further clarification of the rejection be provided, so that Applicants can fully address this issue.

Claims 5, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 5, 19 and 21 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2, 11, 13 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,111,357 to Flemming *et al.* ("Flemming"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 2 and 24, as amended, recite that "said first metal auxiliary electrode and said second metal auxiliary electrode are fully separated from each other in a plan view" (emphasis added). Flemming does not disclose such a structure. Particularly, with respect to col. 7, lines 61-67 and Figures 1A-1C referred thereto, Flemming does not show metal auxiliary electrodes that are fully separated in a plan view. Therefore, for at least this reason, claims 2 and 24 are patentable over the prior art of record. As claims 11 and 13 depend from claim 2, they are also patentable for at least these reasons as well.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

3, 7, 9, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Flemming. Claims 3 and 7 depend from claim 2, while claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 2 and 24, claims 3, 7, 25 and 26 are patentable over the art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

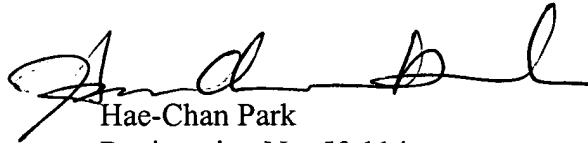
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the form of claims 14, 16, 27 and 28. As seen above, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the objections, and therefore respectfully request that the claims be passed to issuance.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered prior to the examination of the above-referenced patent application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are patentable over the prior art of record, request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections to the claims, and request that the claims be passed to issuance. If the Examiner desires any additional information, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Hae-Chan Park
Registration No. 50,114

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McGUIRE WOODS, LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102-4215
(703) 712-5365 (Direct Phone)
(703) 712-5280 (Direct Fax)